ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

344/87

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
1986/87

Alberta

CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM

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1987

"Alberta's libraries are people places. The front cover shows a montage of people across the province using, enjoying and serving in the libraries in their communities."

ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

Honourable Greg Stevens
Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism
103 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Stevens:

In accordance with the Libraries Act, I am pleased to provide you with the Ninth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1987.

This year's report focuses on the people who make Alberta's libraries the energetic and lively centers they are across the province. People as patrons, trustees, staff, and service volunteers - in any and all these capacities, they are a vital resource in the public library service provided in our Alberta communities, and we salute them.

As members of the Alberta Library Board, we appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the vital Alberta library scene.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Dutton

Sue Dutton, Chair
Alberta Library Board
1986/87

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M 2Z5

BOARD MEMBERS

Sue Dutton, Calgary • Patricia Fiette, Grande Prairie • Majorie Haugen, Cowley • Ed Halina, Olds
Robert Maskell, Edmonton • John Solodzuk, Two Hills • Wanda White, Brooks

WHAT IS THE ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD?

"The health of a democratic society may be measured by the quality of functions performed by private citizens."
Alexis de Tocqueville

The Alberta Library Board, made up of seven private citizens from across Alberta, functions as an advisory board to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. The members are appointed for three year terms by the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism to advise him on matters relating to public libraries in Alberta.

The Board's statement of mission is:

"The primary aim of the Alberta Library Board is to advise the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism on matters relating to the expansion, development, co-ordination and encouragement of libraries and library services in Alberta.

The Alberta Library Board promotes communication among groups in the library community. To support provincial library growth the Board will encourage library leadership and improve awareness of the public library's role in a democratic society."

Now in its ninth year of operation, the Board derives its authority from the Libraries Act, Chapter L-12.1, 1983 of the Statutes of Alberta. Its mandate includes:

- Advising the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism as set out in Section 6 of the Libraries Act.
- Considering matters referred to it by the Minister.
- Receiving input from the general public and library-related organizations.
- Receiving input from library boards and trustees, library associations and the Library Services Branch.
- Providing mechanisms through which individuals and groups can discuss library development and inform the Board on these matters.
- Recommending to the Minister regarding study and research awards.
- Initiating research and making recommendations to the Minister on the results.
- Co-operating with library groups to encourage development.
- Making recommendations on the establishment and dissolution of community libraries.

In the following pages, this annual report chronicles the many activities the Board has been directly or indirectly involved in while carrying out its stated mission during 1986/87.

"The Alberta Library Board members met with the former Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, the Honourable Dennis L. Anderson."

WHO IS THE ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD?

Alberta Library Board members come from seven geographical locations spread across Alberta. As members of this advisory board, they make connections throughout the province with library groups, trustees, librarians, and patrons.

John Solodzuk
TWO HILLS

Patricia Flette
GRANDE PRAIRIE

Robert Maskell
EDMONTON

Wanda White
BROOKS

Ed Halina
OLDS

Sue Dutton
CALGARY

Marjorie Haugen
COWLEY

"Members of the Alberta Library Board are appointed from all parts of Alberta."

"The 1986/87 Alberta Library Board from left to right: John Solodzuk (Two Hills), Wanda White (Brooks), Sue Dutton (Calgary), Robert Maskell (Edmonton), Marjorie Haugen (Cowley), Patricia Flette (Grande Prairie), Ed Halina (Olds)."

Daphne Betlamini of Morinville retired from the Board after serving for six years. The newly appointed member was Wanda White, Treasurer of the Shortgrass Library Project and member of the Brooks Public Library Board.

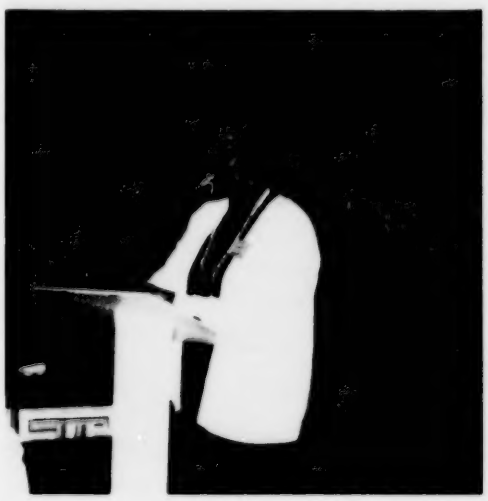
"In April 1986, Daphne Betlamini (right), of Morinville, retired from the Board. She is shown here with board member Bob Maskell and Jane Simmons, the then executive assistant to the Minister."

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ALBERTA'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES?

> *"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."*
>
> Will Rogers

Library Systems Development

This year saw a continuance of the Alberta Library Board's interest and support of the three existing library systems - Marigold, Parkland, and Yellowhead - as well as of the new Peace Library System and the two system projects in the province - Shortgrass and Northeast.



"Alberta Library Board member Pat Flette addressed the first meeting of the Peace Library System Board, June 14, 1986 in Grimshaw."

The many years spent in the Peace Area by hard working volunteers and staff on the pre-system phase were brought to a successful conclusion in June 1986 when the Peace Library Project Interim Board officially handed over its authority to the Peace Library System Board. In December, 1986, the System Board hired Ian Ferguson as Director, and in March 1987, Grande Prairie was selected as the site for the regional headquarters.

The Peace Library System is now geographically the largest of Alberta's library systems and the first established since 1981. The Alberta Library Board congratulates the Peace citizens on this major step forward in providing library system services to 109 school and 22 public libraries in the area. The population base of the new system was 73,007 people.

The Shortgrass area provides another example of the power of people working together, evidenced by countless meetings held and many miles travelled. During the year, the Shortgrass Library Project Steering Committee continued to make presentations to area library boards and municipal councils.

One significant result early in 1987 was the City of Medicine Hat's agreement to join the system thus bringing in the system's resource library and largest population centre. The system concept is now supported by 76% of the local residents, and the Steering Committee anticipates system establishment by early 1988.

In October 1986, the Alberta Library Board travelled to Medicine Hat to hold its regular board meeting and to meet with representatives of the Shortgrass Library Project. After discussing with the project's executive officers a brief previously submitted to the Board, Board members attended a reception hosted by the Shortgrass Project for area residents, councillors, and Steering Committee members. The following day, Board members took part in an interesting area workshop which was well attended by area citizens. The Alberta Library Board was pleased to note the amount of interest indicated by residents at both the reception and the workshop in finding out more about the services that could be provided through a library system.

The established systems of Yellowhead, Parkland, and Marigold continued to expand. Wetaskiwin joined Yellowhead; the City of Camrose entered the Parkland system, and Canmore and Longview are now part of Marigold. Altogether these additions meant that 27,123 more Albertans now have access to the services of regional library systems.

Library systems currently serve 34% of the population outside of Calgary and Edmonton. Unfortunately the economic restraints of the coming year mean that less establishment and operating funds will be available, necessitating curtailment of further expansion of established systems and delay of new systems establishment.

The Northeast Library Project Steering Committee held 25 meetings with library boards to receive input for the Plan of Service for the proposed system. The full Steering Committee presented the Plan of Service at the 1987 March Annual General Meeting. Presentations to library boards and municipal councils to secure formal written endorsements will take place in 1987-88. The Project also sponsored a number of promotional programs which helped to raise its profile in the Northeast and within the larger Alberta library community. The Northeast's target date for establishment is mid 1989.

Other new developments during the past year include:

- New municipal library boards were formed in Beaver County, Big Valley, Irma, and New Sarepta.
- Wainwright Community Library became a municipal library.

"Board member Bob Maskell with members of the Shortgrass project in Medicine Hat, October, 1986."

Liaison With Other Groups

In its mission statement, the Alberta Library Board states that it will "promote communication among groups in the library community." The Board continued to initiate or respond to requests to meet with other groups representing various library clienteles.

In December 1986, Board Chair, Sue Dutton, and Vice-Chair, Ed Halina, met with representatives from the Alberta Library Trustees Association, the Library Association of Alberta, and the Learning Resources Council to discuss matters concerning all libraries across the province.

In addition to meeting with the Shortgrass Library Project Executive as mentioned under Library Systems Development, the Board met with the staff of the Library Services Branch development services unit in order to be kept up to date on the activities and directions of the branch. Olga Gil, assistant director of development services, led her staff in reviewing for the Board the services provided to Alberta's public libraries in systems development, consultation, and training and education.

A pilot project began in 1985 to bring together, for the benefit of Albertans, the resources of the province's public libraries and ACCESS NETWORK television programming. For this project, the Alberta Library Board and ACCESS agreed to cooperate to produce and distribute reading lists related to chosen ACCESS programs. This year the Board provided funding for the compilation of three reading lists; titles were included on the basis of currency and availability in Alberta public libraries.

"LANDSCAPES: an annotated bibliography on the natural history of Alberta" was completed and distributed to all public libraries in the province to accompany the ACCESS series. "THE CHINESE" was distributed in May. "END OF EMPIRE" and "WAGNER" reading lists have been compiled, and copies will be made available to the public libraries when the related programs are next aired in 1987.

"The ACCESS Network and the Alberta Library Board co-operated to produce bibliographies based on special television series."

Three television Public Service Announcements on public libraries in Alberta were also produced by the ACCESS NETWORK. These general interest 30-second spots were aimed at increasing general awareness of libraries and have been aired at various times during the year.

"An ACCESS crew on location in Hanna, Alberta to produce public service announcements on Alberta Libraries."

Resource Sharing

"These are not books, lumps of lifeless paper, but ***minds*** *alive on the shelves. From each of them goes out its own voice...so by taking down one of these volumes and opening it, one can call into range the voice of a man far distant in time and space, and hear him speaking to us, mind to mind, heart to heart."*

Gilbert Highet

In 1986, 25,878 interlibrary loan requests were made by library users. Alberta public libraries, not including Calgary and Edmonton, filled 36% of these requests.

Calgary and Edmonton Public Libraries filled an additional 12.7% for a total of 48.7% filled by Alberta's public libraries. This significant increase over the previous year results from the implementation of "Networking in Alberta: Levels of Service Expectations."

The University of Alberta, including the Extension Library, filled approximately 23% of the total number of requests. From all sources, a total of 73.6% of the requests were filled within the province.

The Zenith Telephone Information Service is another major element of the Resource Sharing Programme. In 1986, Resource Libraries responded to 9,826 enquiries on the Zenith Service.

Direct Services

As of December 1986, the Multilingual Biblioservice collection added up to almost 50,000 volumes. During the year more than 6,000 volumes were added to the collection including books in one additional language, Japanese, bringing the total number of languages represented to 31. Library Services Branch loaned 30,973 volumes, an increase of 4.5% over the previous year.

The Branch also loaned 7,907 talking books throughout the province while Alberta public libraries reported 72,212 talking book loans to their patrons, a 26% increase over 1985.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

Sir Richard Steele

"The Peace Project Steering Committee was full of smiles the day the Peace Library system was formally established, June 14, 1986 in Grimshaw."

Awards

ALBERTA LIBRARY BURSARY

This year's competition for the $4000 Alberta Library Bursary drew 13 applicants from among library science students in Alberta. The bursary was awarded to Judith Osborne of Edmonton who entered her first year of the Master of Library Science programme at the University of Alberta in September 1986. The Board congratulates Ms. Osborne and looks forward to the many fine qualities she will bring into a career in public librarianship.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Because of a scarcity or complete lack of applications in the past several years for the Research Fellowship, the Board recommended to the Minister that this award be discontinued.

ALBERTA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Alberta Government presented Dr. Howard Platt with an Alberta Achievement Award for the immense contribution he has made as a volunteer to the literary, educational, and library communities of Canada. He has served on the Spruce Grove Library Board, as president of the Alberta Library Trustees Association, and as director of the Canadian Library Association. In addition to his many other activities, he founded the Western Canadian Learning Materials Society (Alberta) and initiated the creation of WordWorks Alberta, a centre allowing several writing, publishing, and library organizations to share office space and services.

CREATIVE LIBRARIANSHIP AWARD

In 1986, the former Honourable Dennis Anderson, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, established, through the Alberta Library Board, the Creative Librarianship Award for the purpose of identifying, promoting, and facilitating the sharing of creative public library service ideas in Alberta. The award will be presented annually to provide recognition for public library boards and staff who have developed dynamic approaches to the provision of library services.

Fourteen excellent entries were submitted to the Board by December 31, 1986. These were then reviewed by a committee of the Board - a difficult task - in order to recommend a recipient for the award. The Board was very pleased with the quality and creativity of the nominations which were from all parts of the province, and all sizes of libraries from small rural libraries to large city ones.

Karen Armbruster, head librarian for Brooks Public Library, was chosen as the winner of the 1986 Creative Librarianship Award and was to be presented with the award by the Minister at the Alberta Library Conference in May 1987. Ms. Armbruster has initiated many innovative programs to provide library service for all ages and a wide variety of people in Brooks, from the functionally illiterate to immigrant groups.

"Karen Armbruster of Brooks was named the winner of the first Creative Librarianship Award of 1986."

ANNIVERSARY PLAQUES

To recognize many years of providing library service, the Board awarded plaques to four communities. Rocky Mountain House, Wainwright and Berwyn all celebrated 50 years of library service and plaques were presented by board members Ed Halina, John Solodzuk and Pat Flette respectively. In addition Sue Dutton, Chairperson of the Board, presented a special commemorative plaque to the Chairperson, Keith Pederson, of the Calgary Public Library Board in recognition of 75 years of service to the Calgary community.

School/Public Library Co-operation

In the fall of 1985, the then Minister of Culture, Mary LeMessurier, asked the Alberta Library Board to examine present and possible levels of co-operation between school and public libraries. The Alberta Library Board agreed to sponsor a joint committee with the Library Association of Alberta, the Learning Resources Council, and the Alberta Library Trustees Association to study the relevant issues.

The committee consisted of:

Marjorie Haugen, Alberta Library Board, Chair

Sue Dutton, Alberta Library Board

Mary Lou Rose, Alberta Library Trustees Association

Duncan Rand, Library Association of Alberta

Barry Eshpeter, Learning Resources Council

Martin Adamson, Department of Education

Joe Forsyth, Library Services Branch

Barbara Clubb, Library Services Branch (replacing Joe Forsyth after September 1986)

Meetings were held throughout the year culminating in the submission of a report to Dennis Anderson, former Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. The report surveyed the present status of co-operation and then focused on recommendations for action in seven areas:

- Educational enlightenment of all concerned parties about the need for the benefits of co-operation
- Co-operative access to cataloguing information
- Subsidization of telecommunication costs
- Alberta Education funding to regional library systems
- Technical support systems
- Provincial consultative support for school libraries
- Capital grants for system headquarters

Implementation of the recommendations varies in amount of difficulty. Some recommendations could be acted on immediately while others would require long range planning between the Departments of Culture and Multiculturalism and Education. Overall the conclusion drawn was that future co-operation between school and public libraries is vital in order to maximize resource allocation and maintain or improve delivery of services to both sets of library users.

> *"Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern but impossible to enslave."*
>
> Lord Brougham, British jurist and statesman

Rural Grants Study

The Board initiated a study of the structure and consequences of grant regulations relating to provincial grants to rural public libraries. This grant program has been successful in the past in allowing these libraries to begin to provide a reasonable level of public library service to rural residents. The increased services created a greater awareness and an accelerated demand for even better access to library services.

The major response to providing these services has been the encouragement of co-operative regional library systems to share goods and services in order to provide to Albertans outside the major municipalities a high level of service for reasonably increased cost. However, current funding levels need to be examined because of inflation, increasing costs for library resources, and heightened user demands and expectations.

A report with recommendations covering system establishment, operation, and upgrading costs was submitted to the Minister in the full knowledge of the current fiscal restraints. However, the Board felt it important to provide an economic framework for future library development of systems to meet the library needs of the majority of Albertans.

Extension Library

The Board had undertaken a study of the Extension Library in 1985/86 and had made subsequent recommendations to the Minister's office on the role of the University of Alberta Extension Library in providing a public library service. However, the Board was concerned to learn this year that the Extension Library was to be eliminated by the University. The Library Services Branch immediately began discussions with the Department of Extension, University of Alberta and the regional library systems about future library service to Extension Library patrons, particularly those who have no close physical access to public libraries. Negotiations also began regarding reallocation of the Extension Library book collection.

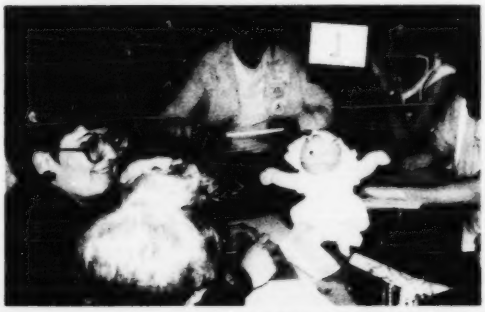
Conferences and Workshops

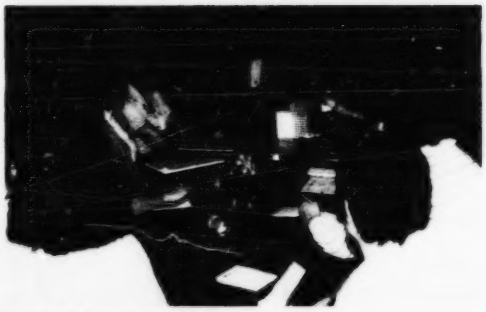
> *"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."*
>
> Benjamin Franklin

The Board played an active role in the Alberta Library Conference at Jasper in April 1986 with the presenting of "Potpourri '86". This was a workshop of fifteen mini-sessions focused on celebrating successes of Alberta public libraries. Approximately 125 delegates came to hear the enthusiastic presenters talk about innovative projects their libraries had carried out in the previous year. Presenters included librarians, volunteer resource people, and library board members from communities across the province varying in size from Sexsmith to Calgary and Edmonton. Presenters at Potpourri '86 were from Sexsmith, Marigold, Hinton, Edmonton, Tofield, Leduc, Jasper, Fort Saskatchewan, Beaverlodge, Rocky Mountain House, Calgary, Strathcona County (Sherwood Park), Ponoka, and Red Deer, as well as the Canada Council in Ottawa.

"Proud Potpourri '86 presenters represented libraries across Alberta."

Each delegate could attend four of the mini-sessions and, at the conclusion of the workshop, received a kit containing materials from all the sessions. The workshop was very successful and gave participants an opportunity to share experiences and to take immediately useful suggestions back to their libraries. In response to many requests, the Board planned to repeat the opportunity by presenting "Potpourri '87" at the 1987 Alberta Library Conference.





"At Potpourri '86, innovative library projects were on display."

During the year representatives of the Board also attended the Canadian Library Association Conference in Quebec City, the American Library Association in New York, and the Public Library Association Conference in St. Louis. The Board reviewed the conference reports and materials submitted by each member and discussed possible applications to Alberta's public libraries.

"Alberta Library Board Chairperson, Sue Dutton, (Centre) attended the Canadian Library Association in Quebec City in June, 1986."

Library Openings

The Board is always pleased to recognize the contribution of time and hard work made by staff and volunteers by attending or sending greetings to the many official library openings around the province. This year the following communities celebrated anniversaries or openings: 5th Anniversary - Marigold Library System; 75th Anniversary - Calgary Public Library; library openings at Irma, Bawlf, Galahad, Leduc, Bassano, New Sarepta, Irricana, Nampa, and Hairy Hill.

"Three of the library openings the Alberta Library Board members attended included Bawlf (top), Galahad (middle) and Hairy Hill (bottom)."

BRINGING IT TOGETHER

"Man's mind stretched to a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

All over the province, people are making things happen in libraries. In libraries of all sizes, staff, volunteers, and trustees are working together to improve the accessibility and quality of library services available to Albertans. Library boards are wrestling with bylaws, policies, and needs assessments so their libraries can respond better to community library needs. Staff and service volunteers work directly to bring library materials and patrons together - often with less money and more demands.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Joe Forsyth, Director of the Library Services Branch, Ms. Barbara Clubb, Acting Director, and Mrs. Brenda Baron, Administrative Supervisor and Recording Secretary for the Board, as well as the rest of the Library Services staff for their support of the Board's activities.

Ours is an information age, and libraries are in the information business. Bringing people and information together takes people of dedication and vision who are committed to providing library service to Albertans - now and in the future. The Alberta Library Board congratulates the people of Alberta's libraries for their many achievements in the past and looks forward to working with them to meet the challenges of the future.